

was furnished free—and he would wake up in the morning to find himself in military barracks and to be informed that he was an enlisted soldier in the army. All the formalities had duly been gone through with, and he was kept in seclusion in the barracks until he was transferred to some remote part of the republic. He was enlisted under an assumed name, so that when his friends came to the barracks to inquire after him by name they were informed that there was no such man there. If they doubted the statement there were the rolls, which they might inspect. As the Mexican soldier is virtually a prisoner, and the army is made up to a considerable extent of criminals pardoned under condition of enlisting, no comment would be excited by the keeping of a new recruit in confinement, and, off in Yucatan or Tabasco, his friends would not hear of him again, at least during the building of the road."

#### SOME POINTED QUESTIONS.

**They Were Put to American Travelers by the Viceroy of China.**

When Mr. Allen and Mr. Sachtleben reached Tien Tsin, after their long bicycle ride from Constantinople across Asia, they had a protracted interview with the viceroy—Li Hung Chang—the man whom Gen. Grant included among the three greatest statesmen of his day. He asked the young American travelers a multitude of questions about the countries they had ridden through, and at last came down to personalities. The following were a few of his inquiries:

"About how much did the trip cost you?"

"Do you expect to get back all or more than you spent?"

"Will you write a book?"

"Did you find any gold or silver deposits on your route?"

"Do you like the Chinese diet?"

"How much did one meal cost you?"

"How old are you?"

"Are you married?"

"What is the trade or profession of your parents?"

"Do they own much land?"

"Are you democrats or republicans?"

"Will you run for any political office in America?"

"Do you expect ever to get into congress?"

"Do you have to buy offices in America?"

The young men hesitated a little over this last question, and the viceroy was good enough to say that they would become so well known as the result of their long journey that they might get into office without paying for it. "You are both young," he added, "and may hope for anything."

#### Chinese English.

The Chinese take great pains to use the English language with accuracy, but sometimes they are more fluent than correct. Those pretty little seaweed flowers that unfold from seemingly dry sticks when dropped into a finger bowl with water are imported into this country in gray paper envelopes, sometimes labeled thus: "Water flowers for the amusement after dinner."

#### THE MIDDLE-AGED MAN.

**He Buys Two Cents' Worth of Cocoanut Cakes and Renews His Youth.**

"When I was a boy," said a middle-aged New Yorker the other day, according to the Sun, "I used to be very fond of cocoanut cakes, as they were called, small disks of candied cocoanut, which cost one cent each. They were colored white and red, and finally they got some chocolate colored, and it seems to me they had some other colors. If I had only one cent I bought usually a white one, though sometimes I took a red one; if I had two cents I bought a red and white, to have a variety. I have seen the time when I had three cents, and bought all three colors at once."

"I had not bought any cocoanut cakes for I don't know how many years, though I had seen them along year after year, particularly in summer, when the dust blows and the white ones get all covered with dirt but the other day I bought two of the new-fashioned kind, that seems just now to be having a run; you see them on all the push carts. The new cocoanut cakes are all one color, a sort of molasses color; and they are not round and flat like the old ones, but thick and bunchier, like little broken-off masses of the prepared cocoanut."

"I found them very good. They differ somewhat from the old-fashioned cocoanut cake in taste and texture, as well as in build and color; the old cocoanut cake, while not brittle, exactly, was what you might call crumbly and sugary; it dissolved quickly in the mouth; while the contemporaneous cocoanut cake, after you get below the light frostwork of its exterior, has decidedly more consistence; it is what the modern child calls chewy; but the cocoanut taste is there all right, and as I eat them they carry me back to the days of my youth."

#### A MILLIONAIRE'S WORK.

**The Mammoth Baths Constructed by Adolph Sutro.**

The most wonderful baths in the world are those built by Adolph Sutro, in San Francisco. The great cliffs have been tunneled, that the water of the Pacific may flow through a succession of canals into the reservoir where it is warmed; and thence into the enormous tanks. The baths are more than twice as large as the largest of the famous old Roman baths, and Mr. Sutro has tried to make them as beautiful. Twenty thousand people can sit, stand, or promenade about the tanks, which are arranged for every possible set of bathers.

There are cold baths and hot baths, swimming and diving baths, baths for children and beginners. The largest tank is two hundred and seventy-five feet long and one hundred and fifty feet wide. There is even a fresh-water tank, supplied from the waterworks above.

The place is full of beauty and color, with tropical plants and rows of growing palms; while through the glass side-walls, the ocean view stretches. The building is of steel and glass, and

its glazed roof spans more than two acres. Tier after tier of rooms for the bathers rise, until they are numbered by many hundreds.

A great stage, fifty feet broad, is placed at the ocean end of the tank-room for an orchestra. The building is furnished with electric lights and elevators throughout. Three restaurants provide refreshment, and an aquarium and conservatory add to the beauty and interest. The Cliff rocks outside are covered with seals, sunning themselves, and the finest baths in the world have perhaps the most beautiful setting.

#### FEMININE INGENUITIES.

**The Queer Uses the Women of Peru Make of Shawl Pins.**

Of the multifarious uses of the hair-pin, some, at least, are well known. They are suggested by a French traveler's description of a pin which the Indian women of Peru wear as a fastening for their shawls. Its head is in the shape of a spoon. In fact, it is a spoon and a shawl-pin in one.

It is odd, the Frenchman says, too see a woman pull out the pin, letting her shawl drop from her bare shoulders, and proceed to use it for eating her soup or porridge. After the repast she passes the bowl of the spoon carefully between her lips two or three times, gathers up her shawl, and fastens it in place.

The same women use their slippers instead of pocketbooks—a point in which they may be said to have the advantage of their North American sisters, who, having no pockets, or none within comfortable reach, are compelled to carry their purses in their hands.

The money of Lima consists of bank-notes, which go very well into the bottom of a slipper. As to the effect upon the bills, perhaps the least said the better. There is an old saying that money always smells sweet.

#### Kleptomania.

To believe a French writer, there are no fewer than four thousand women caught every year in stealing during their shopping expeditions, a habit euphoniously styled kleptomania. The number of titled ladies seized with the strange malady while examining the fashions of Paris, he tells us, is almost incredible. Among the most recent culprits were a Russian princess, a French countess, an English duchess and the daughter of a reigning sovereign. As a rule, these more distinguished offenders are let off on the payment of a round sum for the relief of the poor, and when the shoplifter is known to be rich the sum exacted rises to as much as ten thousand francs. The police authorities consent to this sort of condonation.

#### The Grave of Eve.

It is said that the supposed grave of Eve is visited by over forty thousand pilgrims each year. It is to be seen at Jeddah, in a cemetery outside the city walls. The tomb is fifty cubits long and twelve wide. The Arabs entertain a belief that Eve was the tallest woman who ever lived.